GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7156
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the precise details of instrument of accession which was signed between Britain and India at its independence;

(b) whether there is a clause that it was to be made public after fifty years of independence;

(c) the reasons for not been made public so far;

(d) whether the INA has not given its rightful recognition;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the INA still after fifty years has been denied a memorial in its own country; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D.SWAMI)

(a) to (c): No Instrument of Accession was signed between India and Britain at the time of Independence. The Independence of India flowed from the Indian Independence Act, 1947 which, inter-alia, provided that as from the 15th August, 1947, there would be set up an independent Dominion known as India, and that the Government of India Act, 1935, would with such omission, additions, adaptations and modifications as the Governor General might by order specify, be applicable to the Dominion of India. The Government of India Act, 1935 as so adapted, by the Governor General provided that an Indian State might accede to the Dominion of India by the `Instrument of Accession` executed by the Ruler thereof. Thus the `Instrument of Accession` was for the merger of the Indian States to the Dominion of India.

(d) to (g): The Government of India have duly recognized the contribution made by the INA. Members of INA, who had participated in freedom struggle of the country and suffered imprisonment as Prisoners of War/Camp detainees etc., or who lost their regular jobs in the British Indian Army are covered under Swatantrata Sainik Samman pension Scheme for grant of pension. Till date 22,466 INA personnel/their eligible dependents have been granted pension under the Scheme. In the memory of the INA saga the Government has dedicated one full gallery in its museum the Swatantrata Sangram Sangrahalaya in the Red Fort, Delhi, which was inaugurated on 2nd October, 1995 by the Prime Minister.